

Varhadi dialect

Varhadi is a dialect of Marathi spoken in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and by Marathi people of adjoining parts of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana in India.

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Vocabulary and Grammar

Although all the dialects of Marathi are mutually intelligible to one another up to a great extent, each dialect can be distinctly identified by its unique characteristics. Likewise, Varhadi replaces the case endings *la* (ला) & *na* (ना) of standard Marathi with *le* (ले), a feature it shares with neighboring Khandeshi dialect. So, *mala* (मला) (to me) of standard Marathi becomes *male* (मले) while *tyanna* (त्यांना) (to them) becomes *tyahile* (त्याहिले) in Varhadi. Despite being a dialect of Marathi, the vocabulary as well as grammar of Varhadi is significantly influenced by Hindi due proximity of Vidarbha to Madhya Pradesh. The common examples of Hindi words in Varhadi which are different than standard Marathi are:

Varhadi	Hindi	Standard Marathi	English
<i>Sīdhā</i> / <i>sārkā</i> (सीधा/सरका)	<i>Sīdhā</i> (सीधा)	<i>Saraḷ</i> (सरळ)	Straight
<i>Budā</i> (बुडा)	<i>Buddhā</i> (बुद्धा)	<i>Mhātārā</i> (म्हातारा)	Old man
<i>Pagalā</i> / <i>bhāitād</i> (पगला/भैताड)	<i>Pāgal</i> (पागल)	<i>Vedā</i> (वेडा)	Mad
<i>Aṅgūr</i> (अंगूर)	<i>Aṅgūr</i> (अंगूर)	<i>Drākṣa</i> (द्राक्ष)	Grapes

The grammatical changes in Varhadi differing from standard Marathi & closer to Hindi are:

Varhadi	
Varhadi–Nagpuri	
वऱ्हाडी	
Native to	India
Region	Vidarbha region of Maharashtra; also southwestern Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh and northern Andhra Pradesh; Specially in berar region(Akola, Amravati, Washim, Buldhana and Yavatmal)
Native speakers	(7.0 million cited 1995) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indo-Iranian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Indo-Aryan<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southern Zone<ul style="list-style-type: none">Marathi<ul style="list-style-type: none">Varhadi</div>
Writing system	Modi script Devanagari ^[2]
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	vah
Glottolog	varh1239 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/varh1239) ^[3]

Varhadi	Hindi	Standard Marathi	English
<i>Mī jā'un rāhīlō</i> (मी जाउन राहिलो)	<i>Maim jā rahā hūm</i> (मैं जा रहा हूँ)	<i>Mī zātōy</i> (मी जातोय)	I am going
<i>Mī ālī</i> (मी आली)	<i>Maim āyī</i> (मैं आयी)	<i>Mī ālē</i> (मी आले)	I (feminine) came
<i>Tuyāvālā pēn dē</i> (तुयावाला पेन दे)	<i>Apnā pēn dō</i> (अपना पेन दो)	<i>Tuzhā pēn dē</i> (तुझा पेन दे)	Give your pen
<i>Pānī ghēūn ghē</i> (पानी घेऊन घे)	<i>Pānī lē lō</i> (पानी ले लो)	<i>Pānī ghē</i> (पाणी घे)	(Please) Have water.

Apart from this, there are many words & phrases indigenous to Varhadi i.e. common to neither standard Marathi nor Hindi. For instance, to give stress on a request or an order, the suffix *zo* (जो) (singular) or *zā* (जा) (plural) is used like "*Mahya porichya lagnale ye za* (माह्या पोरीच्या लग्नाले येजा) "Please attend my daughter's wedding." Also, there are words & phrases maintained by Varhadi which were present in older Marathi (spoken 300 years ago or even prior to that) and have vanished from mainstream Marathi. E.g., in vocative case, *abe* (अबे) is said in Varhadi instead of 'are' (अरे) of standard Marathi. Another good example is the sentence construction of past continuous tense e.g. in Varhadi, it is said '*Tho bahut abhyas kare*' (थो बहुत अभ्यास करे) or "'To lay abhyas kare'" (तो लय अभ्यास करे) (He studied a lot) unlike "*To khup abhyas karaycha*" (तो खूप अभ्यास करायचा) of standard Marathi.

In most of the Indo-Aryan languages (or even in Dravidian languages, for that matter), Sanskritized words of standard language get simplified in spoken dialects. Exceptionally, Varhadi has a few Sanskrit tatsama words for whom the standard Marathi counterparts are modified words (*tadbhava shabda*) such as in eastern parts of Vidarbha, snake is called *sarpa* (सर्प) unlike *sāp* (साप) of standard Marathi.

The forms of Varhadi vary in different parts of Vidarbha and also, as per castes. The influence of Hindi increases as one moves towards Madhya Pradesh. E.g. in the parts adjacent to Madhya Pradesh, '*zana padte*' (जानं पडते) (I have to go) is preferred over '*zaa lagte*' (जा लागते), which is similar to Hindi '*jana padta hai*' (जाना पडता है). Also, consonant '*cha*' (च) (like in *chook* चूक), prevalent in Marathi but absent in Hindi, is often pronounced as '*cha*' like in *vachan* (वचन). So, *paach* (पाच) (five) may be pronounced as *paanch* of Hindi.

In the areas closer to Marathwada region of Maharashtra and on the contrary, distant to Madhya Pradesh, Varhadi is influenced by dialects of adjacent parts of Marathwada. One can easily recognize a person from Pusad, Digras or Umarkhed taluka of Yavatmal district by his sentence of present continuous tense. Somebody from this area will say '*me mandirat zaylo*' (मी मंदिरात जायलो) (I am going to visit a temple) instead of '*mee mandirat zaun rahilo*' (मी मंदिरात जाऊन राहिलो) of other parts of Vidarbha. Similarly, the tone of speech in Chikhli, Mehkar, Deulgaonraja talukas of Buldana district is similar to that of nearby parts of Marathwada. If someone from this area speaks to a person from Nagpur or Wardha, the latter may get confused whether the former is from Vidarbha or Marathwada. Likewise, Khandeshi dialect spoken in parts of Jalgaon district adjacent to Vidarbha is too similar to be differentiated from Varhadi of Malkapur-Shegaon belt of Buldana district. The perfect varhadi can be heard in Akola and Amravati district.

See also

- Nagpur
- Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.
- Languages in Maharashtra

References

1. Varhadi (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/vah/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Devanagari has been big bigger with LOVEpromulgated as the official script.

3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Varhadi-Nagpuri" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/varh1239>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

External links

- "Resources in and about the Varhadi-Nagpuri language" (<http://www.language-archives.org/language/vah>)
 - Varhadi at India9 (<http://www.india9.com/i9show/Varhadi-50721.htm>)
 - Varhadi Language in Penn Libraries (<http://devplw.library.upenn.edu/cgi-bin/sdi/vbook/browse?type=lcsbc&key=Varhadi-Nagpuri%20dialect%20--%20Dictionaries>)
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